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## Educational Policies Committee Program Proposal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, July 17, 2019

Utah State University

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**Utah System of Higher Education  
Changes to Existing Academic Program Proposal  
Cover/Signature Page - Abbreviated Template**

**Institution Submitting Request:** Utah State University

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
|  | <i>Current</i>                                   | <i>Proposed (if applicable)</i>           |
| <b>Program Title:</b>  | <b>Specialization in Literature and Writing</b>  | <b>Specialization in Creative Writing</b> |
| <b>Sponsoring School, College, or Division:</b>                | <b>College of Humanities and Social Sciences</b> |   |
| <b>Sponsoring Academic Department(s) or Unit(s):</b>           | <b>English Department</b>                        |   |
| <b>Classification of Instruction Program Code<sup>1</sup>:</b> | <b>6 - Digit CIP</b>                             | <b>6 - Digit CIP</b>                      |
| <b>Min/Max Credit Hours for Full Program Required:</b>         | <b>30 / 30</b>                                   | <b>Min Cr Hr / Max Cr Hr</b>              |
| <b>Proposed Effective Term for Program Change<sup>2</sup>:</b> | <b>Fall 2019</b>                                 |   |
| <b>Institutional Board of Trustees' Approval Date:</b>         |  |   |

**Award Type:** MS

**Program Change Type (check all that apply):**

|                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Name Change of Existing Program                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Program Restructure with or without Consolidation     |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Program Transfer to a new academic department or unit |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Program Suspension                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Program Discontinuation                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Reinstatement of Previously Suspended Program         |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | Out of Service Area Delivery Program                  |

**Chief Academic Officer (or Designee) Signature:**

I, the Chief Academic Officer or Designee, certify that all required institutional approvals have been obtained prior to submitting this request to the Office of the Commissioner.

Please type your first and last name \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I understand that checking this box constitutes my legal signature.

<sup>1</sup> For CIP code classifications, please see <http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/cipcode/Default.aspx?y=55>.

<sup>2</sup> "Proposed Effective Term" refers to term when change to program is published. **For Suspensions and Discontinuations**, "effective term" refers to the term the program will suspend admissions.

## Program Change Description - Abbreviated Template

### Section I: The Request

Utah State University requests approval to change name from Specialization in Literature and Writing to Specialization in Creative Writing effective Fall 2019. This action was approved by the institutional Board of Trustees on .

### Section II: Program Proposal

#### Program Change Description/Rationale

*Present a brief program change description. Describe the institutional procedures used to arrive at a decision for the change. Briefly indicate why such a change should be initiated. State how the institution and the USHE benefit by the change.*

The English Department at Utah State University is requesting a name change for the specialization offered under the MA/MS in English. Currently students must choose the Specialization in Literature and Writing. We would like for students to have two options: (1) the option of choosing a widely recognizable MA/MS in English or (2) the option of specializing in creative writing by choosing a Specialization in Creative Writing. We have several reasons for requesting this name change:

- Most of our peer institutions offer a traditional MA/MS in English. It is a recognizable degree. Offering a specialization in Literature and Writing is repetitive and adds no useful description to the degree.
- Currently 2/3 to ¾ of our graduate students focus on creative writing in our MA/MS in English program. They write creative theses. The Specialization in Creative Writing demonstrates a clear commitment to a specific aspect of English--the study and practice of literary arts—and more effectively names what students are choosing and studying.
- Creative writing is one of the areas within the field of English that continues to experience growth. Because students want to focus on creative writing, the degree will attract more diverse and stronger graduate students. The Specialization in Creative Writing will make that option apparent and clear.
- We have noticed a trend in offering emphases in creative writing at the graduate level as a way to prepare students to then apply to an MFA or creative PhD. It is a stepping stone of sorts, and we would publicize the specialization as a way to further apprentice before applying for these very selective degree programs.
- No school in the region offers this specialization.
- The program would require no changes or no additional faculty. The name change just more effectively names what we are already doing with most students.
- Students who would rather choose a more traditional MA/MS in English would still have that option and earn a general MA/MS in English.

**Consistency with Institutional Mission/Institutional Impact**

*Explain how the action is consistent with the institution's Regent-approved mission, roles, and goals. Institutional mission and roles may be found at [higheredutah.org/policies/policyr312/](http://higheredutah.org/policies/policyr312/) . Indicate if the program will be delivered outside of designated service area; provide justification. Service areas are defined in [higheredutah.org/policies/policyr315/](http://higheredutah.org/policies/policyr315/) . Will faculty or staff structures be impacted by the proposed change?*

As a land grant university, our mission is student-centered. We encourage students to discover and create. A specialization in creative writing would signal our commitment to the literary arts and to the way students can pursue their interests and passions through apprenticeship and mentoring.

**Finances**

*What costs or savings are anticipated from this change? If new funds are required to implement the change, indicate expected sources of funds. Describe any budgetary impact on other programs or units within the institution.*

There are no costs for this change. We would be attracting stronger and more diverse graduate students and that would ultimately benefit Utah State overall.